

Clean School Bus USA: Tomorrow's Buses for Today's Children

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Clean School Bus USA is a new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiative to reduce pollution from school buses and deliver significant health benefits to school children as well as the general public. Since the EPA Administrator announced EPA's Clean School Bus USA campaign in April 2003, the public-private partnership has grown to a major \$65 million initiative in President Bush's 2005 budget proposal. Clean School Bus USA (CSBUSA) has the ambitious goal of retrofitting or replacing every older diesel school bus in the nation—approximately 400,000 buses—by 2010, thus reducing more than 35,000 tons of particulate matter over the life of the program.

School buses provide 24 million of our nation's children with safe and convenient transportation between home and school. Unfortunately, diesel exhaust from school buses poses a health risk, particularly to children. Diesel exhaust contains small particles as well as smog-forming and toxic air pollutants. Pollutants in diesel exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems and can exacerbate asthma and existing allergies. The reduction in fine particles associated with Clean School Bus USA is estimated to benefit children by preventing at least 150,000 respiratory symptoms, 5,000 asthma attacks, 1,000 asthma-related emergency room visits, and 9,000 incidences of acute bronchitis.

Clean School Bus USA brings together manufacturers of buses, engines and emissions control devices, clean fuel alternatives, school districts, local communities, and local, State, and Federal governments. The program uses commercially available technologies, such as diesel oxidation catalysts, particulate matter filters, and cleaner fuels, coupled with idling reduction programs to lower harmful diesel emissions. Clean school bus projects are being piloted in communities across the country.